

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of cementing, comprising the steps of ~~providing a cement composition comprising a hydraulic cement, a set retarder, and a particle-size distribution-adjusting agent; activating the cement composition; placing the cement composition in a desired location~~ subterranean formation; and permitting the cement composition to set therein.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition further comprises water, and wherein the water is fresh water, salt water, brine, sea water, or a mixture thereof.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the water is present in the cement composition in an amount sufficient to form a pumpable slurry.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 wherein the water is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydraulic cement is a Portland cement, pozzolana cement, gypsum cement, high alumina cement, silica cement, or a high alkalinity cement.
6. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the step of providing a cement composition comprises providing a densified cement composition.
7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6 wherein the step of providing a densified cement composition comprises the step of adding high-density particles to the cement composition.
8. **(Original)** The method of claim 6 wherein the step of providing a densified cement composition comprises the step of reducing the amount of water in the cement composition.
9. **(Original)** The method of claim 6 wherein the cement composition further comprises a yield stress reducing agent.
10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the set retarder is phosphonic acid or a phosphonic acid derivative.
11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10 wherein the phosphonic acid derivative is a sodium salt of phosphonic acid.
12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the set retarder is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of activating the cement composition comprises adding an activator composition to the cement composition.
14. **(Original)** The method of claim 13 wherein the activator composition is added in an amount sufficient to enable the cement composition to achieve a desired compressive strength in a desired thickening time.
15. **(Original)** The method of claim 14 wherein the activator composition is added in an amount in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight of the cement.
16. **(Original)** The method of claim 15 wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of a trialkanolamine and an alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.
17. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16 wherein the trialkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of $[[\ddagger]]$ triethanolamine, tripropanolamine, and triisopropanolamine.
18. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.
19. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the trialkanolamine is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight of the activator composition.
20. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount in the range of from about 50% to about 99.9% by weight of the activator composition.
21. **(Original)** The method of claim 18 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.
22. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the activator composition is added to the cement composition in the form of a solution diluted by water.
23. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the activator composition is added to the cement composition while the cement composition is in storage.
24. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the activator composition is added to the cement composition while the cement composition is being placed in the subterranean formation.
25. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the cement composition in an amount sufficient to adjust the particle-size distribution of the cement composition to a desired range.

26. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition comprising the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent has a particle-size distribution that is narrower than that of the cement composition lacking the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent.
27. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 4% by weight of the cement.
28. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a compound that affects the particle-size distribution of the cement such that the rheology of the cement composition remains substantially stable ~~for a desired period of time~~.
29. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.
30. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 29 wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of ~~[[#]]~~ cationic polyacrylamides; cationic hydroxyethyl cellulose; poly(dimethyldiallylammonium chloride); and cationic starches.
31. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition further comprises a surfactant, a dispersant, a salt, mica, a formation conditioning agent, a fixed-density weighting agent, vitrified shale, fumed silica, bentonite, fly ash, a fluid loss control additive, an expanding additive, a defoamer, a viscosifier, or a mixture thereof.
32. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of permitting the cement composition to remain in a slurry state for at least 24 hours.
33. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of permitting the cement composition to remain in a slurry state for at least two weeks.
34. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of permitting the cement composition to remain in a slurry state for more than two weeks.
35. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the suspension properties of the cement composition are substantially uniform throughout the cement composition.
36. **(Original)** The method of claim 32 wherein the rheological properties of the cement composition remain substantially constant while the cement composition remains in a slurry state.
37. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 9 wherein the yield stress reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of a sulfonated melamine formaldehyde condensate; a sulfonated naphthalene condensate; and a sulfite adduct of an acetone formaldehyde condensate.

38. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition has a density in the range of from about 4 pounds per gallon to about 25 pounds per gallon.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the cement composition further comprises water, and wherein the water is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement; wherein the set retarder is a phosphonic acid or phosphonic acid derivative; wherein the step of activating the cement composition comprises adding an activator composition to the cement composition; wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of triethanolamine and an alkali metal hydroxide; wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the cement composition in an amount in the range of from about 0.01 % to about 4 % by weight of the cement; wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

40-86. **(Canceled.)**

87. **(Currently Amended)** A settable well bore fluid comprising a hydraulic cement, a set retarder, an activator composition, and a particle-size distribution-adjusting agent.

88. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 further comprising water, wherein the water comprises fresh water, salt water, brine, seawater, or a mixture thereof.

89. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 88 wherein the water is present in an amount sufficient to form a pumpable slurry.

90. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 89 wherein the water is present in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement.

91. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 wherein the hydraulic cement is a Portland cement, pozzolana cement, gypsum cement, high alumina cement, silica cement, or a high alkalinity cement.

92. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 further comprising a yield stress reducing agent.

93. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 92 wherein the yield stress reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of $[[\div]]$ a sulfonated melamine formaldehyde condensate, and a sulfite adduct of an acetone formaldehyde condensate.

94. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 wherein the set retarder is phosphonic acid or a phosphonic acid derivative.

95. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 94 wherein the phosphonic acid derivative is a sodium salt of phosphonic acid.
96. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 wherein the set retarder is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement.
97. **(Cancelled).**
98. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim ~~97~~ 87 wherein the activator composition is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the cement.
99. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim ~~97~~ 87 wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of a trialkanolamine and an alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.
100. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 99 wherein the trialkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of: triethanolamine, tripropanolamine, and triisopropanolamine.
101. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 99 wherein the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.
102. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 101 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.
103. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 99 wherein the trialkanolamine is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight of the activator composition.
104. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 99 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount in the range of from about 50% to about 99.9% by weight of the activator composition.
105. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in an amount sufficient to adjust the particle-size distribution of the settable fluid ~~to a desired range~~.
106. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 105 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.01 % to about 4 % by weight of the cement.

107. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a compound that affects the particle size distribution of the settable fluid such that the rheology of the settable fluid remains substantially stable ~~for a desired period of time.~~

108. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

109. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 108 wherein the cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of cationic polyacrylamides; cationic hydroxyethyl cellulose; poly(dimethyldiallylammonium chloride); and cationic starches.

110. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 further comprising a surfactant, a dispersant, a salt, mica, a formation conditioning agent, a fixed-density weighting agent, vitrified shale, fumed silica, bentonite, fly ash, a fluid loss control additive, an expanding additive, a defoamer, a viscosifier, or a mixture thereof.

111. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 wherein the suspension properties of the settable fluid are substantially uniform throughout the settable fluid.

112. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 having a density in the range of from about 4 pounds per gallon to about 25 pounds per gallon.

113. **(Currently Amended)** The settable well bore fluid of claim 87 further comprising water, wherein the water is present in an amount in the range of from about 25% to about 150% by weight of the cement; wherein the set retarder is a phosphonic acid or phosphonic acid derivative; ~~wherein the settable fluid further comprises an activator composition;~~ wherein the activator composition comprises a mixture of triethanolamine and an alkali metal hydroxide; wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is present in the settable fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.01% to about 4% by weight of the cement; and wherein the particle-size distribution-adjusting agent is a cationic polymer.

114-122. **(Canceled.)**